

Appl. No. : 10/776,085
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After paragraph No. [0076] please add a new paragraph as follows:

Figure 21 is an enlarged and exploded side elevational view of a female connector and the suction hose of Figure 20, constructed in accordance with an embodiment.

Please amend paragraph Nos. [0241]-[244] as follows:

[0241] Thus, in accordance with an aspect of at least one of the inventions disclosed herein, a suction tubing 5' illustrated in ~~Figure 20~~ Figures 20 and 21 includes an inner diameter 134' of at least about 8 millimeters. More preferably, the inner diameter 134' of the tubing 5' is from about 8 millimeters to about 15 millimeters.

[0242] As such, the tubing 5' can include the same type of deformations occurring in the known suction tubing 128, yet retain a sufficient clearance within its inner dimension that the likelihood of clogging is not increased as greatly as that resulting from the deformed portions of the tubing 128 illustrated in Figure 19. For example, ~~where the~~ where the suction tubing 5' is formed with an inner diameter 134' of about 8 millimeters in a relaxed state, the suction tubing 5' can be deformed to some extent resulting in a minimum inner dimension identified by the reference numeral 158. Because the inner diameter 134' of the suction tubing 5' in a relaxed state is at least 8 millimeters, the reduced inner dimension 158 caused by a deformation can still be as large as 6 millimeters. Thus, where the tubing 5' has been damaged or deformed in the same manner as the known tubing 128, the tubing 5' is less likely to cause clogging in the same manner as the known tubing 128.

[0243] Optionally, the tubing 5' can include the same female connectors 126 described above with reference to Figure 15. However, such female adapters, for example, such as the female adapter 126' illustrated in Figure 21, can also include slight modifications to the inner recess 134, identified in Figure 21 as diameter 134', so as to more readily accept the outer diameter 132' of the tubing 5'.

[0244] In another modification, a female adapter 126' included with the tubing 5' can define a larger inner diameter 134' than the inner surface 138 of the adapter 126. In use, it may be preferable to cut the adapter 124 so as to avoid the formation of a bottle neck in the vacuum circuit leading to the container 116.